



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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USDA TO COLLECT FINAL 2007 CROP PRODUCTION NUMBERS

Richmond, Virginia – As the 2007 crop year ends, the Virginia Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be relying on producers to help gather year-end production information.

How many acres of corn, soybeans, cotton, peanuts, and tobacco have farmers produced this growing season? Have yields been above or below expectations? How much of these commodities do they have stored on-farm? These are just some of the critical questions NASS will be asking more than 1500 producers statewide as part of the December Agricultural Survey.

"The December Agricultural Survey, also known as the Crops/Stocks Survey, is the largest and most important year-end survey conducted by NASS," explained Herman Ellison, director of the NASS Virginia Field Office. "This survey is the basis for the official USDA estimates of production and harvested acres of all major agricultural commodities in the United States.

"With new agricultural trends emerging and a potential record-setting crop year, data from the December Agricultural Survey will benefit farmers by providing timely and accurate information to help them make critical year-end business decisions and begin planning for the next growing season," added Ellison.

During the first two weeks of December, NASS will contact selected Virginia producers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on their 2007 production and on-farm stocks of corn, soybeans, cotton, peanuts, and tobacco. The information will be compiled and analyzed and then published in a series of USDA reports, including the annual *Crop Production Summary* and quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on January 11, 2008.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Ellison.

All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at 1-800-772-0670.

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